

## LAWSON'S OFFER REJECTED.

**WOULD CHARTER THE INDEPENDENCE  
TO CHALLENGE COMMITTEE.**

Club Refuses, and Commodore Lewis Cass  
Ledyard Informs the Boston Yachtsman

son Said to Have Deliberately Misconstructed the Committee's Letters—Boat WIN Be Admitted to Trial Races if Transferred to or Chartered by a Member of the Club.

The Independence incident, so far as the New York yacht club is concerned, is closed and unless Thomas W. Lawson changes his mind very soon and conforms to the rules of the club or has other plans for his yacht, to quote his own words, "the reason

The last letter in the voluminous correspondence was sent to Mr. Lawson yesterday. It was signed by Commodore Lewis Oddie, chairman of the Challenge Committee. Three seemed to be a settled purpose on Mr. Lawson's part to misinterpret the position of the committee and that he would further discussion on several points to the committee declines to discuss the subject further. In this letter Mr. Lawson was told that if a member of the New York Yacht Club notifies the Secretary that he has chartered or accepted a transfer of the membership, the member can enter the yacht in such events as she is qualified to enter.

The correspondence was given over to the clubhouse last night by Secretary J. W. S. Oddie. It includes all the letters which have passed between Mr. Lawson and the committee on the Cup challenge, since the

In the lawyers' letter there is a clause which says the committee has in its later correspondence with another club a desire to control your boat during the trial, as distinguished from the match or Cup races, apparently recognizing the inequity, if not impropriety, of asking to control your boat while in competition with their own.

The lawyers overlooked a sentence in the letter of Mr. Lawson's letter which is incident. With one of Mr. Lawson's letters is a copy of a charter which he had drawn, and by which instrument he intended to charter the Independence to the Challenge Committee. He also sent an opinion which was written by him for his attorneys, but which was unsigned by him, and which was to the committee in spite of the fact that Commodore Lydard had told him in a letter that the committee did not wish to see the form of charter that he proposed to make.

ton, May 23," which reads: "Your letter of yesterday, with the assurance that my boat on take part in the trial races, and, if selected, defend the Cup, was received this morning."

Mr. Lawson was told plainly that if he wished to take part in all the races in which the Constitution and Columbia entered he must transfer the Independence to some member of the club, but that if he chartered his yacht to some member or members he could take part in the runs of the cruise of the club and the Challenge Committee would invite the member to whom the yacht was chartered to defend the trial races, which were to be sailed after the cruise for the purpose of selecting a Cup defender to meet the Shamrock II.

When Mr. Lawson said he would charter the yacht to some person or persons agreeable

that any member of the club would be agreeable. Mr. Lawson then wrote back saying that he had handed all the correspondence to his counsel with instructions to draw the form of charter which he would submit to the committee for approval before selecting the members of the club. To this Commodore Ledyard replied that it was not necessary to submit the form of charter to the committee and stated that it was the duty of any members of the club to notify the Secretary when he chartered a vessel. Mr. Lawson on June 5 sent the charter, duly signed, in which he turned the boat over to the Challenge Committee, each member of the committee being named in the instru-

was sent yesterday, closing the matter as far as the club is concerned. The letters are as follows:

BOSTON, May 25, 1901.  
"Commodore Louis Case Lydard, Chairman  
of Committee, New York Yacht Club."  
"DEAR SIR: Your letter of yesterday  
with the assurance that my boat can take  
part in the regatta has been duly received,  
may defend the Cup, was received this morning.  
"I will at once charter an interest in her  
to such person or persons as may be agree-  
able to your committee and will give such  
person or persons the same amount of man-  
agement of her during the match. I thank  
you very much for the suggestion and will  
do fairly decent in a special manner, and  
her which boat shall be selected to defend  
the Cup. I will do my best to win the  
contest a success. Believe me, Yours  
very truly,  
THOMAS W. LAWSON.  
"West Point, N. Y."  
"NEW YORK, May 28, 1901."  
"THOMAS W. LAWSON, Esq."  
"SIR: In reply to your letter of May  
25, in which you say that you will charter  
a boat to such person or persons as may  
be agreeable to your committee, I am  
pleased to hear that you will do so, and  
that you will do your best to win the  
contest a success. Believe me, Yours  
very truly,  
THOMAS W. LAWSON.  
"West Point, N. Y."  
"NEW YORK, May 28, 1901."  
"THOMAS W. LAWSON, Esq."

"A number or members of this club to whom you may elect to charter your Yacht Club, may be elected to the full committee during its term, the full charter and management mentioned in your letter, would be a person or persons, to be elected by the committee."

"You will refer to my letter of May 29 you will find that this matter has been already fully explained to you. Respectfully,

"HOBSON, MAY 29, 1801.

"*Commodore Lewis C. Hubbard, Chairman of the Committee, New York Yacht Club.*"

"Dear Sir: Your letter of 28th inst. received. I have forwarded to the committee the entire correspondence to my counsel with instructions to draw a form of charter in accordance with the laws of the State, and send them to you."

"I enclose receipt of same, and before selecting the members of your club who will be asked to act, I will submit same to you for your approval. Believe me, Sir, very respectfully,

"THOMAS W. LAWSON.

"41 West 43rd Street,  
"New York, June 1st, 1801."

"*Thomas W. Lawson, Esq.*"

"Sir, In reply to your letter of May 29, I beg to say that the same is necessary for you to see."

"It is the duty of any member chartering a yacht to notify the captain of the club. He thereby accepts full responsibility for the conduct of the vessel.

"The arrangement between the owner and the charterer is, as already stated to you, one wholly outside the club's jurisdiction.

"It is the custom of the club to accept the statement of the member without further inquiry, and the committee is not aware of any of its members departing from that custom. Respectfully,

"LEWIS CASS LELAND, Chairman."

"BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 5, 1901.

"Commodore Lewis Cass Leland, Chairman of Committee, New York Yacht Club."

I have informed you in my letter of May 20, I handed the entire correspondence to my lawyers with instructions to draw a charter in conformity with the views of both of us as expressed in the letters.

I inclose herewith such charter, duly executed by me, together with a copy of the letter of the attorneys to me, giving their opin-

---

**Ideal outing Sundays to New Haven. Steamers**

1940